

EPP LEADERS MEET FOCUS ON EU CONSTITUTION AND SECURITY

18-03-2004

Several European Prime Ministers and Deputy Premiers, along with European Commissioners close to the EPP, and opposition and party leaders from all over Europe, gather at Meise on March 25th for the EPP Statutory Summit in preparation for the next EU Council in Brussels, which will be dominated by the work of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), international relations and security.

The meeting will take place in the Castle of Bouchout, National Botanic Garden of Belgium, in Meise, from 15.00h to 18.00h.

EPP President Wilfried MARTENS said today: "The next EU Council is an important opportunity to reach a consensus before the EU Enlargement, on the 1st of May. As we stressed in an EPP Congress resolution last February, EU citizens are electing a new European Parliament in June and must be in a position to decide on concrete projects, on a vision for Europe when going to the polls".

Regarding Madrid's terrorist attacks, "these horrific events and its victims will be part of the EPP leaders' discussion", stressed MARTENS. "It is time to show a common action plan that involves all Member States to stop this threat for the world. Europe must be united against terrorism and the Constitution has an important role in it", he added.

Among the EPP statutory members, some of MARTENS' personal guests will be Prime Minister of Croatia, Ivo SANADER, Minister Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig MØLLER, and Michel BARNIER, Member of the European Commission.

EPP Statutory Summit

Date: 25th March

Venue: The Castle of Bouchout, National Botanic Garden of Belgium

Meise. Belgium